

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action dated October 6, 2006 has been carefully considered. Claims 24-52 are pending in the application, with claim 24 being the only independent claim. Reconsideration of the application, in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 26 and 44-46 were found to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. While the finding of allowable subject matter is appreciated, the rejection of independent claim 24 is traversed in view of the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejection

Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,142,831 (*Ashman*).

Independent claim 24 recites the following:

“An interference suppression device for an electronic appliance, the electronic appliance having an electrically conductive housing, said interference suppression device comprising:

a plug device having at least one plug element;

a printed circuit board having a circuit connected to said at least one plug element, said printed circuit board having an external portion protruding through an opening in the electronic appliance housing to an exterior of the electronic appliance housing and an internal portion extending within an interior of the electronic appliance housing; and

a first capacitor arranged on said printed circuit board and connected between said at least one plug element and a potential of the electronic appliance housing, said at least plug element being conductively connected to said first capacitor and said circuit at said external portion of said printed circuit board” (emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 24 is not anticipated by *Ashman* because *Ashman* does not disclose, either expressly or inherently, each and every element as set forth in claim 24. In particular, *Ashman* fails to disclose, teach or suggest the above-highlighted

recitations of claim 24 because (1) the body 14 of *Ashman* fails to disclose the recited "electrically conductive housing"; (2) subassembly 20 of *Ashman* can not be considered to disclose the recited "printed circuit board"; (3) the actual circuit board 12 of *Ashman* does not protrude through an opening in a housing; and (4) the plug element (i.e., each of the contact elements 16) of *Ashman* is not conductively connected to a first capacitor at an external portion of the circuit board 12.

Ashman relates to a multifunction electrical connector 10 which includes an electrically insulated body 14 through which a plurality of contact elements 16 extend. The electrical connector 10 also includes a pair of locating pins 18 projecting from the electrically insulated body 14 so that the electrically insulated body 14 can be easily mounted on a circuit board 12. Additionally, the electrical connector 10 includes a component subassembly 20 which provides the desired integrated filtering function for the contact elements 16. The component subassembly 20 includes a plurality of capacitors 30 and a common ground plane element 32. See Figs. 1, 2, 3 and 5; col. 4, lines 30-55 and col. 5, lines 1-19 of *Ashman*.

The Examiner considers the electrical connector 10 of *Ashman* to be the recited "electronic appliance", and the body 14 of the electrical connector 10 to be the housing of the electronic appliance. However, as discussed above, the body 14 of the electrical connector 10 is electrically insulated. In other words, *Ashman* discloses an electronic appliance which has an electrically insulated housing. Therefore, contrary to the Examiner's interpretation, *Ashman* fails to disclose, teach or suggest the recitations "an interference suppression device for an electronic appliance, the electronic appliance having an electrically conductive housing" (emphasis added) of claim 24.

In addition, as discussed above, since the electrically insulated body 14 is mounted on the circuit board 12, the bottom surface of the circuit board 12 is not covered by the electrically insulated body 14 at all. In other words, *Ashman* discloses a printed circuit board 12 which structurally functions as a base member for the electrically insulated body 14. Therefore, contrary to the Examiner's interpretation, *Ashman* fails to disclose, teach or suggest the recitations "said printed circuit board having an external portion protruding through an opening in the electronic appliance housing to an exterior of the electronic appliance housing" (emphasis added) of claim 24.

The Examiner further considers element 20 of *Ashman* to be the recited circuit board. However, *Ashman* discloses that element 20 is subassembly including a ground plane element 32 and an insulative cartridge 34 which houses capacitors 30. This subassembly 20 can not be considered to be a "printed circuit board" as recited in independent claim 24.

Moreover, as clearly shown in Figs. 3 and 5 of *Ashman*, each capacitor 30 is disposed inside the electrically insulated body 14, and sandwiched between a respective contact element 16 and the common ground plane element 32. The common ground plane element 32 is in turn supported by the circuit board 12. In other words, the point at which a contact element 16 is conductively connected to a respective capacitor 30 is disposed inside the electrically insulated body 14, and above an internal portion of the circuit board 12 which is covered by the electrically insulated body 14. Therefore, contrary to the Examiner's interpretation, *Ashman* fails to disclose, teach or suggest the recitations "said at least plug element being conductively connected to said first capacitor ... at said external portion of said printed circuit board" (emphasis added) of claim 24.

In view of these differences, withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection of claim 24 is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the above-discussed fundamental differences between claim 24 and *Ashman* clearly and patentably distinguish claim 24 thereover under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Dependent claims 25-52 are allowable for at least the same reasons that independent claim 24 is allowable, as well as for the additional limitations recited therein. Applicant appreciatively notes that claims 26 and 44-46 have been indicated to contain allowable subject matter.

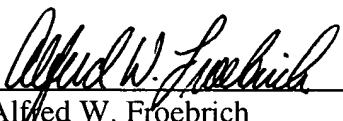
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 8, 2007